


Blissymbolics Communication Institute

Annual Report

1984

A Publication of
Blissymbolics
Communication
Institute



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BLISSYMBOLICS COMMUNICATION INSTITUTE
1984 ANNUAL REPORT

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Report of The Executive Director

1984 through March 1985 has been a period of intensive work within the Blissymbolics Communication Institute. Attention has been focussed upon the final stages of several major publications, implementation of the structure for system development, examination of the best way to undertake our marketing and distributing role, revision of our training program and initiation of a planning program to allow BCI to clarify long term objectives and short term tasks.

The rapidly changing world of augmentative communication continues to bring many challenges to BCI. Throughout the 15 months of this report's scope the same problem resurfaced time and time again, in different forms. BCI staff want to respond to and move with the evolving field of augmentative and alternative communication. We seek the best ways to broaden our activities in order to remain relevant to the emerging applications and knowledge relating to augmentative and alternative communication; yet we feel the continuing strong need to support and develop the application of Blissymbolics. The conflict is not a philosophical one, for we view our attention to Blissymbolics as a valuable contribution to the total field of augmentative and alternative communication. Rather, the dilemma is a practical one, that of deciding how to prioritize and allocate our limited time and resources.

The new purpose statement of the Blissymbolics Communication Institute is directed toward clarifying our position toward Blissymbolics and toward the broad application of augmentative and alternative communication: **We strive to advance augmentative communication for the greatest benefit of nonspeaking people.** We strongly believe we should work toward fulfilling this purpose through continuing our study, development and distribution of Blissymbolics while concurrently directing part of our attention to improving the quality of augmentative communication instruction relating to all systems and devices, and facilitating positive life changes for all nonspeaking people.

Our objectives and focuses of effort are summarized as follows:

1. To advance augmentative communication in ways that contribute to cognitive, social and emotional development and growth.

Immediate task: to continue development of Blissymbolics, considering it to be the best means to advance augmentative communication that contributes to development and growth.

2. To draw attention to the quality of the learning experience and to identify the best types of instruction that contribute to cognitive, social and emotional development and growth.

Immediate task: to explore ways of improving the quality of augmentative communication instruction.

3. To educate, inform and influence those who are in a position to make positive life changes for nonspeaking people.

Immediate task: to create an awareness, through Communicating Together and the Blissymbolics Communication Institute training programs, of the environmental changes which are necessary for the successful integration of nonspeaking people into society.

The discussion that resulted in the preceding expression of BCI's objectives has led to a new initiative within the Province of Ontario. During February and March, 1985, BCI and the Easter Seal Society, Ontario have prepared and submitted a proposal to the Ontario Ministry of Education for a joint project with the Ministry, relating to improving the Ontario educational opportunities for nonspeaking students. The project includes identifying the educational programs and placement of nonspeaking students and establishing a pilot program to provide support to teachers of nonspeaking students in the Province of Ontario. BCI looks forward to the further development and implementation of this project. We see our involvement in a direct service program to teachers as an important way of bringing attention and support to the role played by teachers in providing educational opportunities for nonspeaking students. We also see our involvement helping us remain relevant to the needs of nonspeaking persons, as we apply the knowledge gained from classroom experiences to our publishing, training and system development activities.

Throughout our planning sessions and our regular day-to-day activities, BCI staff always has the assurance of a strongly supportive Board of Directors. (Appendix A) We are especially appreciative of the contributions in time and knowledge given by our Chairman, George Wilson and the committee chairs: David Woods, Finance; Richard Storr, System Development and Institute Program; Garth McNaughton, Marketing. We have welcomed Colleen Spring and Paul Adams as new members of our Board in 1984 and look forward to Angie Reynolds joining our Board in May, 1985. We regret the resignations of Ted Tafel, John Guyatt and Margaret Hockman. We appreciated very much the three years of enthusiastic involvement by Ted Tafel, his liaisons with the Kiwanis Club of Toronto and his innovative thinking. We thank John Guyatt for his consultation and help, always generously

given. Margaret Hockman's supportive and sensitive participation as a representative of Pilot Clubs of Ontario will be remembered, fondly.

The BCI staff complement has had only a few changes in 1984. We have been very fortunate to have Anne Warrick join us as Program Co-ordinator. Her wealth of experience in augmentative communication and rehabilitation makes a valuable contribution to BCI. Laura Woods has worked as Research and Development Assistant, co-ordinating our Picture Your Blissymbols project, and recently has moved to Assistant, Special Projects. A major change in responsibilities has been undertaken by Ann Kennedy, in assuming the role of Marketing Manager. Supported by Lorne Mitchell, Co-ordinator of Marketing and Distribution and the Marketing Committee of the Board of Directors, Mrs. Kennedy now directs the marketing activities of BCI. An increase in responsibilities has also been assumed by Mary Leafe, as BCI's accounting function moved from the Hugh MacMillan Medical Centre to the Easter Seal Society, Ontario. The tasks relating to the transition, along with BCI assuming more responsibility within the accounting function, have all been undertaken capably and willingly by Miss Leafe. The close and constructive working relationship between staff, volunteers and our Board of Directors continues to provide a strong bond and a sense of achievement for all persons involved with BCI.

Our staff, consultants and volunteers, as of March, 1985 include:

Staff

Shirley McNaughton	Executive Director
Ann Kennedy	Marketing Manager
Lorne Mitchell	Marketing & Distribution Co-ordinator
Anne Warrick	Program Co-ordinator
Claudia Wood	Symbol System Co-ordinator
Mary Margaret Caldwell	Research & Development Assistant
Katherine Seybold	Administration Co-ordinator
Dorothy Dent	Administration Secretary
Mary Leafe	Accounting Secretary
Lesley Carter	Word Processing Secretary
Laura Woods	Special Projects Assistant
Anna Giuli	Research Assistant
Matthew Mackness	Part-time Support

Consultants

Jinny Storr
Peter Reich
Brian Wilson

Volunteers

Herb Colbran
Naomi Mackie
Mary McMahon
Bob McNaughton

Highlights of 1984 include:

- * the development and publication of Picture Your Blissymbols an approach to learning Blissymbols that encourages instructors to illustrate and enjoy making Blissymbols meaningful to the learner. This project was made possible by the work of two summer students (Summer Canada Project) and the consultation given by many augmentative communication specialists. The first paper relating to Picture Your Blissymbols, written by Shirley McNaughton and Anne Warrick, appeared in The Canadian Journal on Mental Retardation, Volume 34, Number 4, Autumn 1984.
- * the completion of Blisspen, software supported by the Ontario Ministry of Education, allowing symbol processing on the Apple II and IIe personal computer.
- * the approval of two new software development projects for the ICON educational computer, by the Ontario Ministry of Education:
 - (1) Blissbook, providing a student-directed program, progressing from writing and reading Blissymbol stories to the reading of traditional orthography;
 - (2) Picture Your Blissymbols, offering an introduction to Blissymbols through activities relating to the illustrations of Picture Your Blissymbols.
- * completion of the one-hour Bickell lecture, a set of notes and overheads to provide information relating to Blissymbols for professional training programs.
- * publishing of Core Vocabulary.
- * publishing of A Supplement to Blissymbols for Use.
- * growth in the use of Confer, our computer conferencing system.
- * initial planning toward the Blissymbol translation by Brenda Von Vegasack of Jean Malloch's reading series, Chime In, published by Doubleday.

- * the stimulating six weeks in June and July with our two interns from West Germany.
- * the chairing by Shirley McNaughton of a day-long special session on Communication Aids at the Second International Conference on Rehabilitation Engineering, (ICRE II) Ottawa, June, 1985.
- * the recognition of BCI's contribution to the field of augmentative communication by Serge Joyal, Secretary of State of Canada in his introductory remarks at ICRE II, Ottawa, June, 1985.
- * the honouring of Shirley McNaughton as a Fellow of Resna, June, 1985.
- * the North American Affiliate meeting held at the Opinicon Hotel, prior to ICRE II, Elgin, Ontario, June, 1984.
- * the Blissymbol display at Expo 1985, held in Tokyo, Japan organized by the Ministry of External Affairs.
- * arrangements for the BCI publishing of Blissymbol translations for books being translated by the Hamilton Wentworth Communication Collective.

BCI played an active part in the most important event for the field of augmentative communication in 1984. The Third International Conference on Augmentative and Alternative Communication, sponsored by ISAAC and held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Oct. 20-24, 1984 provided the opportunity for BCI to make three presentations related to work and projects we had undertaken:

Reaching the Communities of Nonspeaking Persons, Shirley McNaughton, Ann Kennedy, Katherine Seybold.

Blissymbolics and Vocas, Shirley McNaughton, Peter Reich, Janice Light.

Graphic Communication Systems: A Comparison, Shirley McNaughton, Gerbrand Verburg, Claudia Wood.

Our support to community and international organizations and projects continued in 1984. I agreed to retain my role as President of the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC) for a second term, because of the need for continuity during the early years of this organization. The emphasis during this second term is upon developing a strong structure and effective communication channels for an organization that will relate to international, interdisciplinary and consumer issues. Katherine Seybold serves

as Chair, Operations and Administration Committee, ISAAC. Anne Warrick serves as Chair, Canadian National Committee, International Project on Communication Aids for the Speech Impaired (IPCAS). This has involved Mrs. Warrick representing Canada at meetings of the International Committee, assisting in the editing of the 1983 National Report, the collection and dissemination of relevant information among members of the Canadian Co-ordination Committee and providing support to the IPCAS Secretariat at CRCO, Toronto. Katherine Seybold and I participate on the March of Dimes Committee for the Microcomputer Training Program, which has developed from our early BCI trainee program and the program established by Bloorview Children's Hospital. I serve as well on an advisory committee to the March of Dimes computer application program and on Task Force Three, established by the Assistive Devices Program, Ontario Ministry of Health, relating to the provision of augmentative communication systems for adults.

BCI staff have had an intensive year. Many projects are nearing completion, yet the final stages still require concentrated attention. Other projects are in the planning stages, again making demands upon the small staff. In spite of the work pressures, there is a spirit of co-operation and willingness that allows us all to enjoy the accomplishments, one by one.

There are many persons to thank for their interest and contribution to BCI in 1984:

1. The Easter Seal Society, Ontario for its continued confidence, encouragement and support of BCI activities.
2. Our Patrons and Board of Directors for their ongoing involvement and support.
3. The staff of the Augmentative Communication Service, and especially Penny Parnes, Director, for the many hours of consultation and problem solving.
4. The staff of Microcomputer Applications Program and the Rehabilitation Engineering for their technical advice and support in our computer-related activities.
5. The HMMC departments which provide reliable and capable help in Accounting, Personnel, Purchasing, Audio Visual, Printing and Shipping.
6. The Pilot Clubs of Ontario for their continuing support of Communicating Together, their sponsoring of one of our interns from West Germany, and their equipment purchases through Dominion Store tapes.

7. The Kiwanis Club of Toronto for its continued support of the font development, the Independent Study Program and Communicating with Blissymbolics.

8. Our volunteers: Mary McMahon and Herb Colbran who continue their regular support to BCI; Bob McNaughton who has given valuable help in the procurement of new products; Janet Haynes and Margaret Tynkaluk who had to end their involvement during 1984; Jinny Storr who provides consultation on a regular basis to the System Office, but who as well, always provides encouragement and wisdom throughout the many difficult decision-making times.

9. Barbara Clarke, who retired from her position as Director, Community Relations, HMMC in 1985. Her confidence in and support of our Blissymbol program since its earliest days will always be remembered.

10. Our many non-Toronto professional associates who visited us, sent their ideas relating to projects we have undertaken, and provided us with encouragement and support for new ventures: our affiliates and presentors around the world and Bruce Baker, Mark Friedman, Caroline Musselwhite, Barbara Rush, Gregg Vanderheiden, John Eulenberg, J.R. Sarney, O.Z. Roy, Jane Green, David Beukelman, Elaine Heaton, Macalyne Fristoe, Lyle Lloyd, Arlene Kraat, Margaret Huber, Joan Bruno, Susan Sansone, Barbara McGarry, Gail Van Tatenhove and George Karlan.

We look forward in 1985, to maintaining our focus upon system development while expanding our role to include service to Ontario teachers, to continuing our effort to increase community awareness, to retaining the strong professional associations we cherish and to strengthening the ways in which we work with others to advance augmentative communication for nonspeaking persons.

Shirley McNaughton
Executive Director

March, 1985.

Financial Support

The Blissymbolics Communication Institute thanks the Easter Seal Society, Ontario for the continuation of its generous financial support. This help played a major role in the BCI continuing its work in 1984. Under the able direction of David Woods, Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Board of Directors, and with strong support from our Patrons and Board members, corporate funding assistance surpassed its goal of \$20,000, reaching a total of \$32,000.00.

Contributing to this funding were:

Corporations

Bell Canada	McLeod Young Weir
Black's Photography	Molson Companies
Burns Fry	Moore Corporation
Canada Life Assurance	National Trust
Canadian A.S.E. Limited	Northern Telecom
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce	Royal Trust
Canadian Tire	Scotia Bank
Confederation Life Insurance	Southam Inc.
Consumers' Gas Company	St. Paul Fire & Marine
Critikon	Insurance
Dominion Security Ames	Sun Life Assurance
Fidelity Life Insurance	Toronto Dominion Bank
Imperial Life Assurance	Travelers Insurance
INA Insurance Co. of Canada	Warner-Lambert
	Wood Gundy
	Clarkson Gordon/Woods
	Gordon

Foundations

The Atkinson Charitable Foundation - System Development
Henry White Kinnear Foundation - System Development
Horsey Foundation - General
J.P. Bickell Foundation - University Lectures
E.W. Bickle Foundation - General
A.E. LePage Foundation - General
The Tippet Foundation - Magazine

Service Clubs

Kiwanis Club - font
Pilot Clubs of Ontario - Magazine

We appreciate greatly the support of the above contributors. It is only through their donations along with the Easter Seal Society, (Ontario) financial assistance and BCI's earned income that we are able to maintain our current level of activity in helping nonspeaking persons.

Katherine Seybold
Administration Coordinator

Report of the Symbol System Co-ordinator

Thanks to the support of The Henry White Kinnear Foundation, The Atkinson Foundation and several personal donations, the System Office was able to proceed with the development of the Blissymbol system and vocabulary. In 1984 the System Secretary (Co-ordinator) and her Research Assistant worked within the structure established by the Board of Directors to add new symbols to the Standard Vocabulary. (Appendix C) The System Committee met in April and in August and approximately 300 symbols, the majority of which represent foods and animals, were accepted into the System. Copies of these symbols were sent to Members of the International Panel, Senior Presentors and BCI Affiliates. The challenge remains to determine how the System Office can effectively disseminate new vocabulary to users and instructors in the field.

In December 1984 the System Office relocated to office space outside of the Hugh MacMillan Medical Centre which is shared by staff and students of the March of Dimes Microcomputer Applications Training Program. This new location in addition to providing more physical space allows staff to work and consult in a quieter atmosphere. Much time was spent after the move, reorganizing the filing system and becoming familiar with the new technology which will be instrumental in the establishment of a Symbol Data Base. Equipment includes an IBM PC, a modem, a Sony Colour Monitor and software developed by TV Ontario for the creation and display of Blissymbols on the video monitor. It is intended that Blissymbols in this form will be eventually made available to software developers who are working with the ICON computer.

The System Co-ordinator has worked closely with a computer consultant to begin formative work on the Symbol Data Base which will include the following components:

- the current symbol vocabulary
- symbol usage data
- historical data
- symbol development data

In addition the IBM and the software will eventually aid in the creation of questionnaires which are sent to International Panel Members.

Monitoring Projects

The following projects were monitored by the Symbol Office in 1984.

1. In-house Projects

Core Vocabulary - responsible for proofreading both the symbols and text for this document.

Symbols for the Font - maintained records of all symbols that were approved or awaiting approval by two consultants.

Blisspen - monitored and approved the symbols which were to be used in the Blisspen software.

Communicating with Blissymbolics - monitored symbols for chapter headings.

Picture Your Blissymbols - provided the approved form of symbols via the Blissapple software.

"Picture Your Blissymbols" in Canadian Journal on Mental Retardation, article by S. McNaughton and A. Warrick - did layout and design of symbols appearing in this article and proofread text.

Zonta Body Builder disk - monitored symbols appearing on this software.

Symbol Exercises - provided questions to assess understanding and knowledge of System by BCI Interns.

2. Projects originating outside BCI:

French Exam - monitored changes recommended by French Sr. Presentors to French Exam used in Elementary Training.

Pinocchio, St. Francis of Assisi - translated into symbols by Pina Gennaro, Catania, Sicily - contracted with BCI monitor fluent in Italian to monitor symbols, acted as liaison between translator and monitor.

Beeb-Bliss - (a flexible Bliss Communication program with associated utilities and a series of games which was monitored by U.K. monitors.) - monitored the printout of the accompanying symbols.

Blissongs - monograph written by Warren Brodsky as part of a masters thesis, a compilation of Blissymbols used to teach symbol users lyrics to popular songs - contracted BCI monitors to proofread text and symbols.

Arthur II - provided symbols and permission letter to a painter who requested symbols for a painting.

Symbols were provided using The Talking Blissapple software or the BCI font and text was monitored for the following projects:

Spell Well 5 - by Lillian Butovsky - a grade five spelling text.

Article by Elizabeth Helfman to be submitted to an educational journal.

Friendly Woman - a journal for the exchange of ideas, feelings, hopes and experiences by and among Quaker women - article by Elizabeth Helfman.

Auditory Discrimination Test - an adapted word discrimination test created by Jodi Glass, speech pathologist.

An Integrated Augmentative Guide: Planning-Training-Communicating by Atheria Scott.

Song Book - by Carolyn Musselwhite.

Personalized font order requested for a client by consultant with the Augmentative Communication Service.

Youth with Disabilities: A Leader's Resource - published by the Girl Guides of Canada.

Symbol Requests:

Symbols were provided in response to requests

1. by letter: We received six written requests for special symbols and 45 requests for symbols newly accepted into the system of Blissymbolics.

2. by phone: We received six phone requests for special symbols.

In addition: 224 combined symbols were provided to Professor Lyle Lloyd at Purdue University which will enable him to carry out a comparative research study on the translucency of signs and symbols.

The BCI Symbol Office would like to thank the following consultants and members of the International Panel for the time and thought they have volunteered in helping to develop Blissymbols.

Patricia Bailey, England
Babul Basu, India
Loretta Biasutti, Canada
Fred Bodsworth, Canada
Britt Carlsson, Sweden
Gosta la Cour, Denmark
Shelley Deegan, Canada
Sandra Dodgson, Canada
Doris Farenkopf, U.S.A.
Thomas Franzkowiak, Germany
Pina Gennaro, Italy
Nadia Browning Gill, Brazil
Jane Green, Canada
Lise Guenet, Canada
Jane Remington-Gurney, Australia
Ruth Harrington, Canada
Annemie Heyndericks Van Roy, Belgium
Patricia Hollingsworth, U.S.A.
Margareta Jennische, Sweden
Ilona Kassai, Hungary
Els Koerselman, Netherlands
Carolyn Lester, Canada
Jody Loeth, U.S.A.
Judith Tanner Loughran, U.S.A.
Barbara Ihle McGarry, U.S.A.
Shirley McNaughton, Canada
Lynnette Norris, Canada
Louise Paré, Canada
Aurelia Rivarola, Italy
Susanne Sornkhom, Germany
Harald Stub, Norway
Ann Colquhoun Sutton, Canada
Anne Warrick, Canada
Judy Seligman-Wine, Israel

We thank as well, the members of the Symbol Committee, Barbara Hehner, Barbara Kates and David Dineen for their thoughtful deliberations with regard to symbol development.

Claudia Wood
Symbol System Secretary

Report of Special Projects Co-ordinator

Font Development

In 1983, work was initiated on the development of a font to give typesetting capabilities to Blissymbols. This project, funded through a grant from the Kiwanis Club of Toronto, was undertaken with the Beacon Herald Fine Printing Company of Stratford Ontario. Whereas work on the project was slower than anticipated, because of the high degree of precision required to ensure accurate Blissymbol production, the 1400 symbols in Blissymbols for Use were perfected by the fall of 1984. This allowed the font to be used to produce the Blissymbols required for several inhouse and out-of-house publications.

BCI Publications or Products

- a) Core Vocabulary
Blissymbols were typeset for this product, ongoing with the perfection of the font symbols.
- b) Communicating with Blissymbolics
- c) Independent Study Guide
- d) A trial Individualized Blissymbol Display
- e) Picture Your Blissymbols
- f) Communicating Together magazine

Blissymbol text requested for other publications

- 1) Spellwell Speller Series
- 2) A Song Book by Caroline Musselwhite
- 3) An Integrated Augmentative Guide: Planning, Training, Communication by Atheria Scott

The Independent Study Workbook

The Independent Study Guide received a set back in March, 1984. With the resignation of the freelance editor for this project. This necessitated a search and selection of a new editor, and the subsequent familiarization by her of the subject of Blissymbolics generally and the Independent Study specifically. Miss Marion Raycheba, the new editor, has brought a new and valuable approach to the project, however the change has caused a serious delay in the completion date. It is hoped that the new Independent Study Program will be a useful vehicle for those wishing an alternative to the Elementary Workshop. Publication date is now scheduled for May 1985.

Communicating with Blissymbolics

This textbook, which will be a required text for the Independent Study Program, was also delayed in 1984. Ms. Grace Deutsch was selected to complete this project. After an orientation period, Ms. Deutsch proceeded with the completion of the work required on this text, and publication date is expected to be in May, 1985.

The Bickell Lecture

Begun in 1983 with a grant from the Bickell Foundation, this product became a project of this office in late 1984. It includes both a three hour and a one hour presentation with script, slides and overheads that can be used by lecturers giving courses on Augmentative Communication. This project has been contributed to by Dr. E.T. McDonald, Anne Warrick, Jane Green, Susan Sansonne and Shirley McNaughton. The development stage of the one hour lecture is now complete. It is expected that production of the script, slides and overheads for the one hour lecture will be complete and ready for distribution in the 1st half of 1985. The three-hour lecture is still under development.

Communicating Together

With the December issue, Communicating Together began its third year of publication. While growth in the number of readers has been slow, we have increased slightly in 1984. (see subscription report that follows.) The quality of articles in the magazine has remained high, and it has been rewarding to have positive comments from subscribers as they renew.

The number of advertisers has increased over the year, and four have requested space for the full year.

The promotional flyer was redone in the summer to reflect more accurately the content of a magazine that has been in circulation for two years. This new flyer was used in several promotional mailings that were undertaken in the early fall, and at the various conferences at which BCI displayed.

During the summer, a marketing student worked with the Marketing Coordinator to select appropriate lists for promotional mailings about Communicating Together. Some of these mailings proved quite successful, others not. The best response came from purchasers of other BCI materials, and from a selection of names from the mailing list of Don Johnston Developmental Equipment, one of our distributors in the U.S.A.

Communicating Together was actively promoted at the three conferences attended by this Co-ordinator - ICRE II (in Ottawa in June), ISAAC (in Boston in September), and ASHA (in San Francisco in November). Overall response in the form of new subscriptions was disappointing.

In December 1983, Sun Life Assurance Co. of Canada announced a generous two year grant to Communicating Together. It is our hope to use the money over the next two years in ways that will ultimately lead to an increased circulation. This will be done by improving the quality of the magazine itself, and undertaking new promotional activities to encourage families and community support agencies to subscribe. The ultimate goal is to increase subscriptions over the two year period to a level that will allow us to lower the subscription rate. We continue to investigate ways of widening the readership of Communicating Together, in our effort to increase support for nonspeaking persons in their home communities.

Ann Kennedy
Co-ordinator of Special Projects

Subscriptions

The total number of subscriptions at the end of 1984 were 1364. This is an increase of 14% over the preceeding year. The promotional efforts from the ISAAC Conference and from Don Johnston Developmental Equipment were the most successful of all our miscellaneous mailings.

The subscription department had a very high success rate with its renewal efforts in 1984. We have had approximately an 80% return.

Lesley Carter
Subscription Department

Report of the Marketing and Distribution Co-ordinator

International Distribution

Following a review of the distribution of BCI materials in the United States BCI entered nonexclusive agreements with Don Johnston Developmental Equipment of Lake Zurich, Illinois, and Ebsco Curriculum Materials of Birmingham, Alabama.

The distribution agreement with Ruth Walls Books, Sydney, Australia was renewed.

In France, the Centre D'Etudes Roland Houdan has become the distributor for BCI French materials for France, Switzerland and Belgium.

Translations

Agreements were signed with the Ministry of Education, Spain for the translation, publishing and distribution of:

Teaching and Using Blissymbolics
Stamps and Guide
Flashcards
Blissymbols For Preschool Children
Introducing Blissymbolics

Publications are to be completed in 1985.

Agreements were signed with Consorzia Siciliano di Riabilitazione, Italy for the Italian translation, publication and distribution of Blissymbols For Use, Teaching and Using Blissymbols and Blissymbol stamps.

Royalties

In addition to royalties due as a result of translation, publishing and distribution agreements, the following have come into effect in 1984:

1. Universitets Forlaget, Oslo, Norway signed an agreement in August, 1984, a provision of which includes royalties due to BCI on the sale of Norwegian editions of Blissymbols for Use.
2. June, 1984, a Letter of Agreement and Permission was signed authorizing the Nottingham County Council, United Kingdom, Schools Computer Development Centre, to use Blissymbols in a computer program designed for use in the school system.

3. The Blissymbolics Resource Centre, Association de Paralysie Cerebrale du Quebec Inc. received permission to produce and distribute a standard Blissymbol display in French.

New Products In Distribution

Core Vocabulary - 207 of the most frequently used Blissymbols.

Supplement to Blissymbols For Use - English alphabetical arrangement of Blissymbols plus an appendix of 154 newly created Blissymbols.

Blissymbol Alphabet - Song and Flashcards.

Picture Your Blissymbols - consisting of flashcard/stamp booklet, instructional manual cap, pen and carrying bag.

MAP Software - two computer programs developed by the Microcomputer Applications Program of the Hugh MacMillan Medical Centre, Pic-Man and Single-Input Control Assessment.

Teaching Materials developed by the Blissymbolics Communication Resource Centre (UK)

- (a) Worksheets
- (b) Game Starter Pack
- (c) Symbol Pattern Book

Conferences

Materials displayed at:

ICRE - June, 1984, Ottawa International Conference on Rehabilitation Engineering.

ISAAC - October, 1984, Cambridge, Massachusetts, International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication Conference.

ASHA - November, 1984, San Francisco, American Speech and Hearing Association Conference.

CEC - November, 1984, St. John's, Newfoundland, Council on Exceptional Children Conference. BCI Affiliate, Jane Green, established a display of BCI materials.

HMMC - November 1,2, 1984, Toronto, Ontario.
The Hugh MacMillan Medical Centre Open
House.

Promotion and Publicity

In 1984 the larger of the two Conference displays was added to, changing the display from a table top to a floor model. Also, new display material was added. Separate promotion pieces were designed and printed for the Core Vocabulary, The Independent Study and One-Day Seminars. The BCI publications Catalogue was updated and re-printed. The Inservice Seminar Kit Brochure was updated.

Breakthrough and Now I Can Speak

The annual statement from the film producer, Lauron Productions, indicated the following activity:

Breakthrough - 16 mm. sales - 2
16 mm. rentals - 6

Now I Can Speak - 3/4" video sales - 1
1/2" video sales - 5
16 mm. rentals - 4

Lorne Mitchell
Marketing & Distribution Co-ordinator

Training

Elementary Training Workshops were held in Toronto in March, July and October. Workshops were also held in the following locations:

Custer, South Dakota	January
Montreal, Quebec	February
Ottawa, Ontario	March-May (correspondence)
Regina, Saskatchewan	March-May (correspondence)
Hamilton, Ontario	March-May (one night a week)
St. John's, Newfoundland	May
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	May-Sept. (correspondence)
Quebec City, Quebec	May
Prince George, British Columbia	August
Sioux Falls, South Dakota	October
Orlando, Florida	October

In addition, a Special Interest Workshop focusing on the mentally retarded was held in Ottawa, Ontario.

The total number of persons who attended elementary workshops in 1984 was 314.

Mary Leafe
Workshop Co-ordinator

Affiliates

As of March 1985, BCI has 48 Affiliates around the world. We were pleased to welcome in 1984 several new affiliates. In France, The Centre d'Etudes Roland Houdon, will be responsible for distributing French materials in France, Belgium and Switzerland. In Ontario, The Algoma District Mental Retardation Service in Sault Ste. Marie, also became an Affiliate.

The 1984 North American Affiliate Meeting was hosted by BCI, June 15-17, 1984 at the Opinicon Hotel in the Rideau Hills, prior to the ICRE Conference in Ottawa. There were 26 participants and it was generally agreed that this annual meeting continued to provide important links between those professionals who are closely allied with Blissymbol users. Discussion centered on training, system, technology, products, research and development and community awareness. Plans are underway for the European Affiliate Meeting to be held in Huizen, the Netherlands in April 1985. The North American 1985 Affiliate Meeting will be held in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, May 1-4.

Two interns from West Germany, Susanne Sornkolm and Thomas Franzkowiak spent six weeks with BCI in June/July of 1984 during which time they were provided with many experiences: site visits; meetings with clinical and educational professionals; observation and discussion with staff and clients of the Augmentative Communication Service of the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre; attendance at The Second International Congress of Rehabilitation Engineering (ICRE II); attendance at seminars presented in clinical settings; and participation as presentors in a BCI workshop.

Publishing and Translation agreements were signed with Affiliates in Spain and Italy for the production and distribution of Blissymbol materials in Spanish and Italian.

Katherine Seybold
Adminstration Coordinator

General Enquiries For Information

The total number of enquiries processed by BCI in 1984 was 289, an average of 24 per month. The breakdown is as follows:

JANUARY 1, 1984 TO DECEMBER 31, 1984

CANADA

Alberta	7	Nova Scotia	5
British Columbia	3	Ontario	99
Manitoba	2	Quebec	4
New Brunswick	7	Saskatchewan	3
Newfoundland	4		

TOTAL: 134

U.S.A.

Arizona	2	Missouri	1
Arkansas	1	New Hampshire	1
California	9	New Jersey	2
Colorado	1	New York	17
Connecticut	3	North Carolina	1
Delaware	1	North Dakota	2
Florida	4	Ohio	9
Georgia	1	Oklahoma	2
Hawaii	1	Oregon	1
Idaho	4	Pennsylvania	3
Illinois	3	South Carolina	3
Indiana	2	South Dakota	3
Iowa	2	Tennessee	1
Kansas	1	Texas	6
Kentucky	3	Vermont	1
Maine	1	Virginia	3
Maryland	2	West Virginia	2
Massachusetts	5	Wisconsin	3
Michigan	4	Wyoming	1
Minnesota	5		

TOTAL: 117

INTERNATIONAL

Africa	3	Italy	3
Australia	5	Japan	1
Belgium	3	Malaysia	1
Bolivia	1	Netherlands	1
Brazil	1	New Zealand	1
Chile	1	Puerto Rico	1
Colombia	1	Romania	1
Denmark	1	Scotland	1
England	2	South Korea	1
France	1	Uruguay	1
Germany	4	Venezuela	1
Hungary	1		
India	1		

TOTAL: 38

Confer

BCI continued to administer a computer conferencing system focussing on augmentative communication. As of March 1985 there were 53 participants, including professionals in the field of augmentative communication, consumers and/or their parents, and several distributors of equipment. Countries represented on Confer are Canada, the U.S.A., the U.K. and Sweden. (see Appendix D) It is hoped that several new participants will be joining the conference from France, Switzerland and Israel. This conference has provided valuable links between the participants, from varying backgrounds and from distant points.

A second computer conference was initiated for the members of the Executive Committee of ISAAC (International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication). This teleconference enables members to coordinate the activities of this new international organization.

A third conference was administered by BCI for the clinics in Ontario who have formed the nucleus of the Assistive Devices Program, of the Ontario Ministry of Health.

The impact and value of Confer continues to grow steadily.

Katherine Seybold
Administration Coordinator

Appendix A

BLISSYMBOLICS COMMUNICATION INSTITUTE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Secretary, Board of Directors

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Mr. Colin G. Watson

Appendix B

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Appendix C

The Development of Blissymbolics Policies, Plan of Organization and Administrative Procedures

Meeting of Board of Directors
January 27, 1983.

Dr. Storr, Chairman of the System Development and Institute Program Committee, presented the following motion, which had been circulated to Board members for study prior to the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Having accepted in principle the advice of an international meeting of experts on the further development of Blissymbolics as an augmentative system of communication, the Board of Directors adopts the following policies, plan of organization and administrative practices:

1. POLICIES

(a) The development of Blissymbolics as a system has made thus far a notable contribution to the facility in communication of handicapped persons and persons having communication, language and learning difficulties, but Blissymbolics has by no means realized its full potential in that service. The Board of Directors intends that the development of the system shall be advanced as rapidly as funds allow.

(b) The primary purpose of the further development of the system shall be to render it as responsive to the needs of actual and potential users as is consistent with the observance of the minimum of rules necessary to preserve the distinctive features and coherence of Blissymbolics as an international system of communication. The Board of Directors intends to encourage in every way possible the staff of BCI, the Affiliates, and the International Panel to bring energetic, flexible and inventive minds to the further development of Blissymbolics and especially charges the staff of BCI to exemplify and facilitate that approach to development. The Board of Directors also charges the staff of BCI with -

1. the formulation of the necessary and fundamental rules of the system in preparation for their adoption by the Board of Directors
2. the administration of those rules in accord with the primary purpose of development of the system.

(c) The Board of Directors intends that the principal method for ensuring observance of the standards set by BCI shall be the publication of vocabularies of approved symbols and manuals of approved usage (such as Blissymbols For Use),

supplemented by computer standards and techniques as required. In regard to the publications of BCI, the Board also intends:

(1) That the BCI standard vocabulary as published in future editions of Blissymbols For Use or comparable books shall consist of all symbols which meet the tests of adhering to the rules of the system and of being accepted and used to good effect in any segment of the international Blissymbols community;

(2) That symbol synonyms (i.e. two or more symbols representing the same meaning) shall be approved for publication where responsiveness to the needs of particular groups of users makes such amplification of the standard vocabulary appropriate;

2. PLAN OF ORGANIZATION

As rapidly as financial resources permit, the further development of Blissymbols shall be organized by means of:

(a) The retention and evolution of the existing structure of Affiliates and the International Panel, to provide the fullest possible consultation on development.

(b) The institution within the BCI paid staff of a regular department to be called the Symbols Secretariat, which shall have immediate responsibility for conducting the affairs of BCI in regard to development of the system.

In particular, without limiting the generality of that charge, the Symbols Secretariat shall:

1. co-ordinate the developmental efforts of BCI, the Affiliates, and the International Panel

2. exercise its own initiative in the development of proposals for improvement to the system

3. prepare for final approval all recommendations in regard to the addition, alternation, or deletion of standard symbols and other elements of the system.

(c) The appointment of consultants, serving on a fee-for-service basis, to assist the Symbols Secretariat in the preparation of its recommendations.

(d) The institution of a Symbols Committee of three members, which shall be appointed by the Board of Directors from the Blissymbolics community and which shall:

1. receive the recommendations of the Symbols Secretariat

2. exercise definitively the delegated authority of the Board of Directors to approve or reject recommendations of the Symbols Secretariat in regard to both the development (or revision) of the principles governing the composition of compound symbols within the framework of the fundamental rules of the system.

(e) The Symbols Committee shall have the right to recommend changes in the fundamental rules to the Board of Directors.

3. PRACTICES

A. Action upon requests from the Blissymbolics community for changes in the system shall be neither hurried nor improvised; but quickness of orderly response must be given the highest priority in the work of BCI.

B. The recommendations submitted to the Symbols Committee by the Symbols Secretariat shall:

1. contain the rationale of each recommended change in the system with an endorsement of its conformity to the fundamental rules
2. be as fully documented as is practicable
3. be so framed as to allow the Symbols Committee to accept or reject each recommendation without reformulating it.

The Symbols Committee shall have the right to refer recommendations back to the Secretariat for clarification but shall be encouraged not to exercise that right as a matter of normal practice.

C. Appointments to the Symbols Committee shall be of persons living close enough to Toronto to permit the Committee to take its decisions by majority votes in face-to-face meetings, the quorum of the Committee consistent of its whole membership.

D. Objections to the decisions of the Symbols Committee shall be brought to its attention but only through the Symbols Secretariat and with the recommended response of the Secretariat. The Symbols Committee shall be obligated to give no justification of its decisions beyond accepting the rationales of the recommendations which it approves or explaining originally its rejection of any recommendations.

E. The Symbols Committee shall report directly and immediately to the Executive Director those definitive decisions which the Symbols Committee makes by virtue of its delegated authority so that the Executive Director can take

prompt action in each case. The Symbols Committee shall also submit an annual report to the Board of Directors for its information.

F. The Board of Directors shall attempt neither to pass judgment upon each decision of the Symbols Committee nor to withdraw the approval given any symbol by the Symbol Committee, but in the event that general rectification of the work of the Symbols Committee becomes advisable, the Board of Directors shall employ its power of appointments.

G. The Board Committee on System Development and Institute Program shall have responsibility for monitoring the application of the terms of this motion to the work of BCI, especially in regard to such guidance and help as the Committee can give in the period of adjustment when the terms of this motion are being put into effect.

H. Alterations in the fundamental rules of the system shall require the approval of the Board of Directors.

Meeting of Board of Directors
March 17, 1983.

The following statement was approved unanimously as an official gloss upon section 2. (b) of the Development of Blissymbolics;

The Symbols Secretariat shall be responsible to the Executive Director for its day-to-day operation in the same manner as are other BCI departments. However, with regard to the contents of the recommendations made by the Symbols Secretariat to the Symbols Committee, the Board of Directors shall hold the Symbols Secretariat accountable only for adherence to the fundamental rules of the system and the procedures upon which the further development of the system is premised (notably of consultation with the International Panel on Standards for Blissymbolics).

Appendix D

CONFER Participants

ACS OCCC - Canada	David Kingsland - Canada
Mary Ann Berthiaume - U.S.A.	Arlene Kraat - U.S.A.
Jim Brooks - U.S.A.	Betty Jean MacDonald - Canada
Pat Cashdollar - U.S.A.	MAP OCCC - Canada
Crippled Childrens Hosp. - U.S.A.	Garth McNaughton - Canada
Croyden Ave School - U.S.A.	Shirley McNaughton - Canada
Ed Deinstadt - Canada	Lorne Mitchell - Canada
Jean Destrooper - Switzerland	Jim Mullin - U.S.A.
John Dowling - Canada	Paula Nelson - U.S.A.
Bob Eilers - U.S.A.	Phil Olynyk - Canada
John Eulenberg - U.S.A.	Bob Parnes - U.S.A.
Gunnar Fagerberg - Sweden	Penny Parnes Canada
Bob Fawcus - U.K.	Susan Sansone - U.S.A.
Joreta and Rex Franklin - U.S.A.	Manuel J. Santos - Canada
Terry Gandell - Canada	Katherine Seybold - Canada
Doug Geoffray - U.S.A.	Howard Shane - U.S.A.
Anna Giuli - Canada	Shanon Singer - U.S.A.
Felicia Graef - U.S.A.	Nahum Sloan - Canada
Dale Grover - U.S.A.	Tarrant Center - U.S.A.
Kari Harrington - Canada	Clive Thursfield - U.K.
Stephanie Hayes - Canada	Tufts Rec - U.S.A.
Elaine Heaton - Canada	Vernon School - U.S.A.
Michael Hughes - Canada	Anne Warrick - Canada
Don Johnston - U.S.A.	Carole Wood - U.S.A.
Ann Kennedy - Canada	Claudia Wood - Canada
Martin King - U.S.A.	Everyl Yankee - U.S.A.

Appendix E

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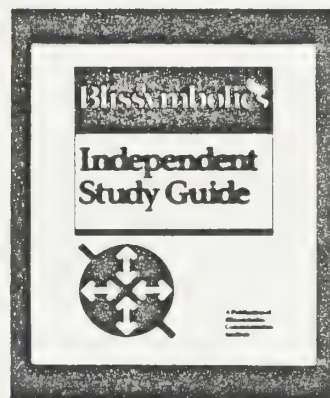
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